

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the third paragraph on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:**

~~According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a screw, wherein the height of the flight located below the hopper port of the screw is made lower than the height of the flight on a downstream side.~~

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a screw for use in an extruder for carrying a rubber material supplied from a hopper port at the rear of the cylinder of the extruder by the screw, molding it into a predetermined sectional form and extruding it from a nozzle attached to the end of the cylinder, wherein

the height of a flight portion located below the hopper port of the screw is lower than the height of a flight portion on a downstream side and continuously changes in a peripheral direction at a predetermined angle.

According to a tenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a screw, wherein a portion where the height of the flight portion is lower than the height of the flight portion on a downstream side has an angle of 180° or less.

**Please insert the following paragraph after the first full paragraph on page 4:**

According to an eleventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing a screw for use in an extruder for carrying a rubber material supplied from a hopper port at the rear of the cylinder of the extruder by the screw, molding it into a predetermined sectional form and extruding it from a nozzle attached to the end of the cylinder, the process

comprising cutting away a peripheral portion of a flight portion located below the hopper port of an existing screw at a predetermined angle so that the height of the flight portion continuously changes in a peripheral direction to produce a screw having the flight portion located below the hopper port lower than the height of the flight portion on a downstream side.

**Please replace the second paragraph on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:**

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing a screw for ~~use in an extruder, wherein the amount of the peripheral portion cut away is 2 to 6% of the diameter of the screw. for carrying a rubber material supplied from a hopper port at the rear of the cylinder of the extruder by the screw, molding it into a predetermined sectional form and extruding it from a nozzle attached to the end of the cylinder, the process comprising cutting away a peripheral portion of the screw so that the height of a flight located below the hopper port of the screw for existing extruders becomes 2 to 6 % smaller than the diameter of the screw.~~

**Please replace the third paragraph on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:**

According to an eighth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing a tire rubber member by using the screw according to any one of the ~~first to sixth~~second to sixth and ten aspects.

**Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:**

According to a ninth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a tire rubber member manufactured by using the screw according to any one of the ~~first to sixth~~ second to sixth and ten aspects and having a gauge fluctuation of 0.15 mm or less.